

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** Commissioner's Office

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant the request of the Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union Board to extend the November 1, 2010 deadline to May 1, 2011 for final recommendations for the supervisory union's boundary change?

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education not grant the request of the Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union Board to extend the November 1, 2010 deadline to May 1, 2011 for final recommendations for the supervisory union's boundary change.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 16 V.S.A. 261 (a)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On May 18, 2010, the State Board voted to place the Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union under consideration for a supervisory union boundary change and permit the Supervisory Union Board to hire an interim superintendent of schools for one year while the study is completed. It also stipulated that the Battenkill Valley Board complete its study with final recommendations by November 1, 2010.

In a letter dated August 5, 2010, the chair of the Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union has requested an extension of the November 1, 2010 deadline for final recommendations for the supervisory union's boundary change. The letter cites the legislature's passage of Act 153 after the May 18, 2010 State Board meeting as reasoning for this request.

The commissioner recommends that the Board vote not to approve this request thereby holding the supervisory union board to the original timeline. It is his intent to recommend to the Board that the towns of Arlington and Sandgate (member towns of the Battenkill Valley SU) join the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union. The issues of S.U. regrouping and district consolidation are separate and distinct analyses.

The Commissioner/Department does not want to discourage, in fact it encourages, discussions and/or studies regarding the formation of a Regional Education District (R.E.D.) – pursuant to Act 153 of 2010 – for this area. Through these discussions, a R.E.D., which would meet the four district or 1250-student minimum or which was to receive an SBE waiver, would be eligible for incentives contained in Action 153.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:**

Potential for reduced administrative costs

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner  
Mark Oettinger, General Counsel